

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 5-13 are pending. Claim 1 is amended herein. Support for the amendment is detailed below.

Applicants' undersigned representative thanks Examiner Carter for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of November 12, 2008. Applicants separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated below.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Specifically, the Office Action maintains that the phrase "wherein said isolation groove is located between second support" is unclear as to how the isolation groove can be located between a single support.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to clarify that the invention comprises a pair of second supports and a second isolation groove located between the pair of second supports. Wherefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 as amended is now definite.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

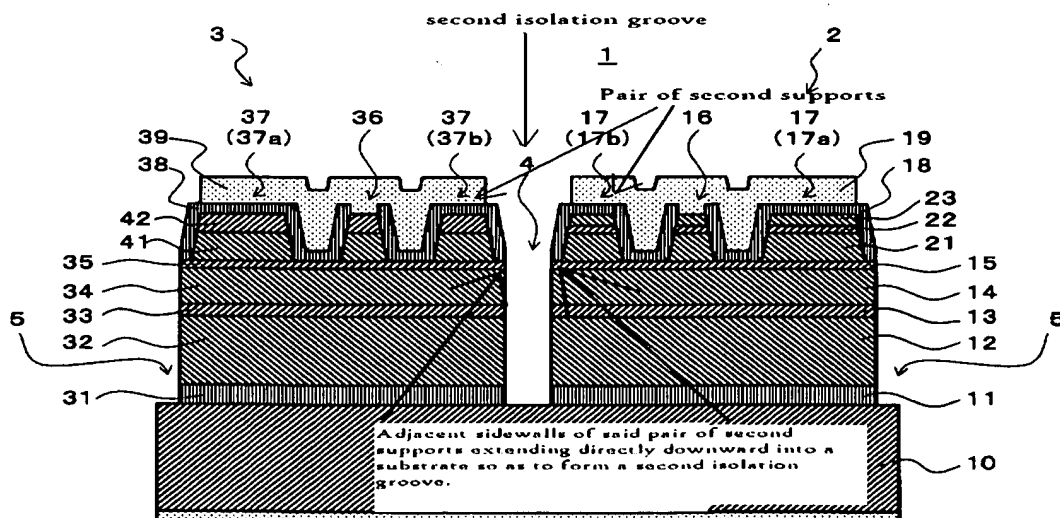
Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Mazed* (US 6,411,642).

In response thereto, as discussed during the course of the interview, applicants respectfully submit that *Mazed* does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention either expressly or inherently.

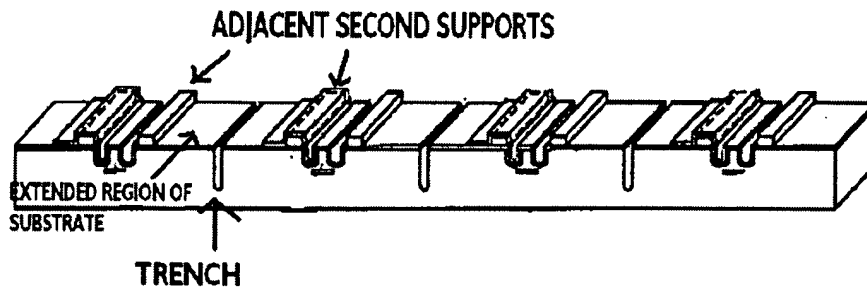
Specifically, as discussed during the interview, applicants respectfully submit that *Mazed* at least fails to disclose the feature of the present invention that adjacent sidewalls of a pair of second supports extend directly downward into an underlying substrate forming a second isolation groove between the sidewalls.

As set forth in the reproduced Fig. 1A of *Mazed* on page 2 of the Office Action, the rejection asserts that the distinct supports are two second supports, and the trench 17 between the ridge laser diodes 15a-15b is the isolation groove. Further, as set forth in the "Response to Arguments" on page 3, section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner remarks that the proximity of the ridges to the grooves is not set forth within the claim language although this does appear to be a distinction between *Mazed* and the present invention.

As discussed during the interview, the current amendment to claim 1 clarifies that a second isolation groove 4 is located immediately adjacent to the second supports 17b, 37b. See, for example, the modified Fig. 1 of the present application below.



As further discussed, this feature distinguishes *Mazed* which teaches that the supports are separated by an extended region of substrate. See modified Fig. 1A of *Mazed* below.



Wherefore, in light of the amendments to claim 1 and the discussion during the course of the November 12, 2008 telephone interview, applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by *Mazed*.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mazed* (US 6,411,642) in view of *Spear* (US 6,075,800) according to the previous office action.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Spear* (US 6,075,800) in view of *Mazed* (US 6,411,642) and further in view of *Mitsuhashi* (US 6,199,561).

Applicants respectfully submit that by addressing the rejection of parent claim 1, as detailed above and during the telephone interview, likewise the rejections of claims 9-13 are addressed by nature of their dependency.

Application No.: 10/592,943
Art Unit: 2828

Response under 37 CFR §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 062998

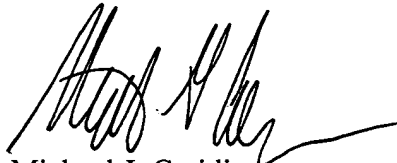
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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